



## Saguaro National Park News Release

*For Immediate Release*

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### Saguaro National Park on the White House Christmas Tree

This holiday season Saguaro National Park will proudly take its place among other national parks depicted on ornaments hung on the official White House Christmas Tree. America's national parks are the focus of this year's elaborate White House holiday decorations. The remarkable display of "Holiday in the National Park" highlights the majesty, history, and diversity of the country's 391 National Park Service sites. As part of the celebration for the upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Park Service, the White House tree will be decorated with special ornaments representing each park.



Saguaro's ornament was designed and created by local artist, Simon Donovan. Mr. Donovan is a noted painter, sculptor and designer known locally for his public works, such as the Diamondback Bridge. Other projects that relate to Saguaro National Park are his multi-colored saguaros at Tucson International Airport and the Ponies del Pueblo project "Saguaro Pony."

Mr. Donovan commented that, "It was important to me personally that the ornament represent Saguaro National Park in the White House permanent collection and not be considered a personal gift to any particular administration." Each of the artists that created ornaments for parks will be invited to join Laura Bush at a White House reception during the holidays.

Simon Donovan's work may be viewed or acquired by contacting Etherton Gallery or Conrad Wilde Gallery in downtown Tucson.

The creation of the ornament was arranged by the Friends of Saguaro National Park, a non-profit organization that supports research and programs at Saguaro National Park.



Simon Donovan

For more information about Saguaro National Park, the Friends of Saguaro National Park or the Whitehouse's Holiday in the National Parks, visit these websites:

[www.nps.gov/sagu](http://www.nps.gov/sagu).

[www.friendsofsaguaro.org](http://www.friendsofsaguaro.org)

<http://whitehouse.gov/holiday/2007/>

*Media Note: High resolution images of the NPS/White House Christmas ornaments can be viewed and downloaded (following credit guidelines provided) at: <http://www.nps.gov/pub/aff/whho2007/WebPage-Thumb.00001.html>*